

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9759

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17240

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, CH, KS, KN

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF CHINESE DIPLOMAT ON INTERNAL PRC EVENTS,
SANJAY AND RUMORED INDIAN MINISTER VISIT TO CHINA

REF: STATE 285819

1. DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT G.K. REDDY REPORTED IN "THE HINDU" NOVEMBER 23 THAT BIPINPAL DAS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WOULD STOP IN PEKING ENROUTE TO PYONGYANG THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29. REDDY NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1962 THAT ANY INDIAN OFFICIAL OF MINISTERIAL RANK WOULD GO TO PEKING, EVEN IN TRANSIT. ASKED ABOUT THE REPORT BY EMBOFF AT SOCIAL GATHERING NOVEMBER 25, LI CHENG-TSENG, FIRST SECRETARY OF PRC EMBASSY, SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE STOPOVER AND THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN IF
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THERE WERE ANY DEFINITE PLANS. (ROK EMBASSY TELLS US

DAS IS DEFINITELY GOING VIA MOSCOW, NOT PEKING.)

2. LI ALSO RESPONDED TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERNAL EVENTS IN CHINA. ON THE POSSIBLE RE-EMERGENCE OF TENG HSIAO-P'ING, LI COMMENTED THIS WAS POSSIBLE SINCE TENG'S ERRORS WERE SUSCEPTIBLE OF CORRECTION. HE NOTED THAT TENG'S VIEWS WERE SIMILAR TO THAT OF LIU SHAO-CH'I, AND, IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUERY, SAID THAT IN THE NEW SETTING IN CHINA, IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT EVEN LIU MIGHT BE REHABILITATED. LI WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE CURIOUS COINCIDENCE OF CH'AO KUAN-HUA AND HIS WIFE BOTH BEING ILL SIMULTANEOUSLY (PARA 5 REFTTEL) AND ABOUT CH'IAO'S APPARENTLY LONG, CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH CHO EN-LAI. LI REPLIED ONLY THAT "SOME PEOPLE" WERE OPPORTUNISTIC AND HAD PLAYED UP TO INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEARED TO BE RISING TO POSITIONS OF POWER.

3. COMMENTING ON INDIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, LI SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE ON THE INDIAN POLITICAL SCENE WERE ALSO EXTREMELY OPPORTUNISTIC AND SOUGHT POWER THROUGH THE MANIPULATION OF THEIR RELATIVES. SINCE CONVERSATION TO THAT POINT HAD BEEN ABOUT SANJAY GANDHI, THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT, DESPITE SANJAY'S APPARENT DISTASTE FOR THE SOVIETS, THE CHINESE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ENTRANCED THUS FAR WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S SON.

4. COMMENT: G.K. REDDY, IN HIS ARTICLE, SAID THAT BIPINAL DAS' TRIP WAS TO BE A GOODWILL MISSION TO BOTH KOREAS. EARLIER, ROK EMBOFF HAD EXPRESSED TO US PLEASURE THAT DAS WOULD BE VISITING SEOUL BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO HIS ALSO GOING TO PYONGYANG.
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